DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF ISOPOD CRUSTACEAN OF THE FAMILY IDOTHEIDÆ FROM THE MOUTH OF THE RIO DE LA PLATA, ARGENTINA, SOUTH AMERICA.

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In 1888, the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries steamer *Albatross*, while dredging off the coast of South America, obtained a specimen representing a new genus and species of Idotheidæ, the descriptions of which follow.

CHIRISCUS, new genus.

Body ovate. Head large, laterally expanded; lateral margins not cleft. First pair of antennæ with a peduncle of three articles, the second inserted at the outer lateral margin of the basal article; flagellum composed of a single long article and a minute terminal one. Second antennæ concealed by first pair; peduncle composed of five articles and geniculate at the articulation of the second and third articles; flagellum multi-articulate. Maxillipeds with a palp composed of three articles. Segments of thorax, except the first, furnished with distinct epimera. Seventh segment abruptly narrower than the sixth and not wider than the abdominal segments. Abdomen composed of three segments, two short ones anterior to a long terminal segment. First pair of legs strongly prehensile, with propodus large and dilated. Four following pairs and seventh pair similar, with terminal joints furnished with long hairs; these legs have no dactylus. Sixth pair of legs much longer than the others, with the carpus and propodus elongate.

This genus is similar to both *Macrochiridotea* Ohlin[1] and to *Chætilia* Dana.[2] It differs from both, however, in not having the second and third pairs of legs prehensile, and in having no dactylus

[1] Isopoda from Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. Svenska Expeditionen till Magellansländerna, vol. 2, No. 11, 1901, pp. 286–291.

[2] U. S Expl Exp , vol 14, 1853, pp. 711–713, pl. 46, fig. 11*a–f*.

to the last six pairs of legs, with the exception of the sixth pair. It also differs from both genera in having only three segments to the abdomen. It differs further from *Macrochiridotea* in not having the sides of the head cleft and in having the second article of the peduncle of the first antennæ inserted in the outer lateral margin of the basal article. It differs further from *Chætilia* in not having the sixth and seventh pairs of legs jointed and in having the sixth pair less elongate.

The type of the genus is *Chiriscus australis*, new species.

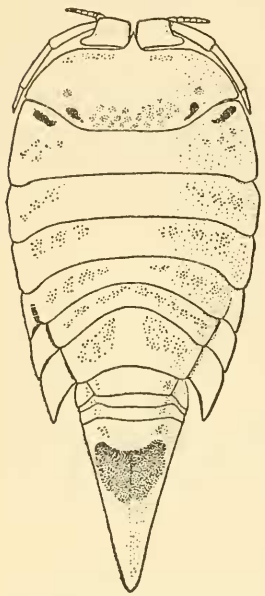

FIG. 1. CHIRISCUS AUSTRALIS. × 9.

CHIRISCUS AUSTRALIS, new species.

Body ovate, a little more than twice as long as wide, 8 mm. by 3½ mm. Color, in alcohol, light brown, with a small patch of black on either side of the posterior portion of the head and on either side of the antero-lateral parts of the first thoracic segment; there is also a transverse band of black on the terminal abdominal segment.

The head is twice as wide as long, 3 mm. by 1½ mm., with the anterior margin produced into a conspicuous median point. The head is deeply immersed in the first thoracic segment, but the lateral parts are produced and expanded in wide plates, the margins of which are entire. The eyes have almost disappeared; they are situated some distance from the lateral margin in the posterior half of the head. The first pair of antennæ have the basal article large and dilated, with the post-lateral margin produced in a small rounded lobe; the second article is narrow, elongate, about one and a half times the length of the first, and is inserted in the outer lateral margin of the basal article; the third article is about as long as the second; the flagellum is composed of a single large article, about half the length of the third article of the peduncle, and a minute terminal article. The first antennæ extend beyond the post-lateral angles of the head by a distance equal to the length of the flagellum; the second antennæ are extremely short, extending only to the end of the second article of the peduncle of the first

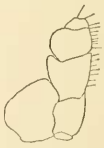

FIG. 2. CHIRISCUS AUSTRALIS. MAXILLIPED. × 20½.

FIG. 3. CHIRISCUS AUSTRALIS. FIRST LEG. × 11½.

antennæ, and are geniculate at the second article; the first article is short; the second is twice as long as the first; the third and fourth are short, about equal in length to each other and to the first article, the fourth having the outer lateral margin produced in a large rounded process or lobe; the fifth article is a little longer than the preceding; the flagellum is composed of eleven articles. The second antennæ are almost entirely concealed in a dorsal view by the first antennæ.

The first, second, and third segments of the thorax are about equal in length in the median line, being each three-fourths mm. long; the fourth, fifth, and seventh segments are a little shorter, being each about one-half mm. in length; the sixth segment is the longest, being 1 mm. long. Epimera are present on all the segments except the first; they are visible in a dorsal view only on the last three, being wide and occupying the entire lateral margin; in the other three segments they are narrow plates and extend only half of the lateral margin. The thorax tapers toward the posterior extremity, which is narrower than the anterior portion. The seventh segment is abruptly narrower than the sixth segment, and is not wider than the first abdominal segment.

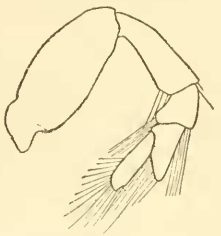

FIG. 4. CHIRISCUS AUSTRALIS. SECOND LEG. × 20½.

The abdomen is composed of three segments, two short segments anterior to the long terminal segment. The terminal segment is long and narrow, 3 mm. by 1½ mm., and tapers to a pointed extremity.

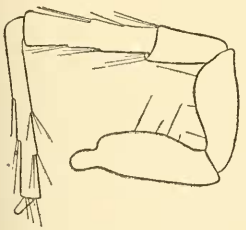

FIG. 5. CHIRISCUS AUSTRALIS. SIXTH LEG. × 20½.

The first pair of legs are strongly prehensile, with the propodus large, dilated, and the dactylus long and reflexed. The carpus is produced on the exterior margin in a long spine-like process at the base of the propodus. The two following pairs of legs are not prehensile, but are similar to the fourth, fifth, and seventh pairs, with the exception that the basis is more dilated and the carpus produced in a long wide process extending half the length of the propodus. In all five pairs, the last three articles are fringed with long hairs, and there is no dactylus. The sixth pair is much longer than any of the others and has the carpus and propodus elongate. This pair has a small blunt dactylus.

Only one specimen was obtained by the *Albatross* at station 2764, off Rio de la Plata, Argentina, at a depth of 11½ fathoms on sand and broken shells.

Type.—Cat. No. 42092, U.S.N.M.